

Voluntary - Public

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New List of Approved Halal Certifier Bodies

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

The Indonesian Council of Ulama (MUI) released the new list of approved Halal certifying bodies in foreign countries.

General Information:

The Indonesian Council of Ulama (MUI) recently issued Decree No: Kep-99/MUI/III/2009 concerning the 'List of Halal Certifier Bodies and Technical Procedure for Evaluation'. The list is based on the evaluation of Islamic Center applications that were conducted by the Assessment Institute for Foods, Drugs and Cosmetics – Indonesian Council of Ulama (LPPOM – MUI). The new list will go into effect on October 1, 2009.

Different from the current list, the new list groups the Halal Certifying Bodies into three categories:

- halal for cattle slaughtering;
- halal for the processing industry;
- halal for flavorings.

It should be noted that there are no 'Halal Certifier Bodies' approved for halal certification for U.S. poultry products. If this situation is not corrected, then it would effectively stop all U.S. exports of poultry products to Indonesia once the new decree becomes effective on October 1, 2009.

For cattle slaughtering, the new list includes all products which are produced for slaughtering, such as: beef, fat, offal, bone, and skin, that is unprocessed but frozen and dried (for example: bone chip for gelatin material) and without additional additive substances but salt (for example: salted skin).

There are two types of processing industry identified under this decree:

1. Processing industry for food, pharmaceuticals, or cosmetics made from:

- plant (for example: fruit juice concentrate, oleoresin, vegetable oil, etc);
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animal (for example: dairy and dairy products, etc);

- mining (for example: tri calcium phosphate);
- synthetic chemical compounds;
- fermentation products (for example: MSG, amino acid, enzyme, citric acid, lactic acid, etc);
- in the form of mixing (for example: seasoning); and
- processing aids (for example: active carbon).

Meat processing industry that processes meat other than frozen and dried (for example: meat flour, fat, gelatin, rennet, collagen, tallow, etc).

Approval of 'Halal Certifier Body' for these processing industries is valid only for products used as raw materials and not for final products that are directly sold to consumers in Indonesia (as retail products).

The 'Halal Certifier Bodies' for the category of flavorings are identified as products that result in certain flavors and aroma that are used as additives in food, pharmaceuticals, or cosmetic products.

The approved halal certifier bodies in the United States are:

For cattle slaughtering house

No.	Name of Halal Certifier Body	Approval Status
1.	Islamic Information Center of America (IICA), IL	Slaughtering
2.	Halal Transaction of Omaha, NE	Slaughtering

3.	Islamic Services of America (ISA), IA	Slaughtering
4.	Halal Food Council S.E.A., MD	Slaughtering
5.	American Halal Foundation (AHF), IL	Slaughtering

For the processing industry

No.	Name of Halal Certifier Body	Approval Status
1.	Islamic Information Center of America (IICA), IL	Pending
2.	Halal Food Council S.E.A., MD	Pending
3.	Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA), IL	Processing Industry
4.	American Halal Foundation (AHF), IL	Pending
5.	Islamic Services of America (ISA), IA	Meat processing

For Flavor

No.	Name of Halal Certifier Body	Approval Status
1.	Islamic Information Center of America (IICA), IL	Pending
2.	Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA), IL	Pending

Although MUI has approved the 'Halal Certifier Bodies' MUI retains the authority to seek more clarification and verification of the certified products if deemed necessary.

For the 'Halal Certifier Bodies' with 'pending' status, MUI has established a period until July 1, 2009 for the 'Halal Certifier Bodies' to complete the following procedures:

Conduct a joint audit with a designated MUI team at the company requesting halal certification. A minimum of three companies is required before a joint audit will be conducted.

Complete the 3-week audit training course in Indonesia.

Request MUI to monitor and provide appropriate advice.

As soon as all these requirements are fulfilled by the 'Halal Certifier Bodies' with 'pending' status, MUI will issue the new status as 'approved'.

For raw materials held in storage in Indonesia after October 1, 2009 with a halal certificate from 'Halal Certifier Bodies' that is no longer approved, MUI will provide an extended period for the product except under the following two conditions:

- validity period of the halal certificate is expired; or

the raw material has been fully utilized prior to MUI issuing the new halal certificate.

In all cases, any U.S. exporter or 'Halal Certifier Bodies' should confirm the regulations and requirements on halal certification directly with MUI prior to shipment to Indonesia.